

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80220-3716
Phone (303) ~~322-9076~~

Telefax:
(303) 322-9076 (Main Building/Denver)
(303) 320-1529 (Plattman Place/Denver)
(303) 248-7198 (Grand Junction Regional Office)



May 30, 1990

DA T NELSON

6/4/90

Roy Romer
Governor

Thomas M. Vernon, M.D.
Executive Director

Mr. Wayne Webster
Rico Development Corporation
P. O. Box 130
Rico, CO 81332

33 1155

RE: Blaine Tunnel discharge
Rico Development Corporation
CDPS Permit No. CO-0029793

Dear Mr. Webster:

On May 21, 1990, we received your letter regarding discharge from the Blaine Tunnel into Silver Creek.

Your permit specifies that discharge from the Blaine Tunnel is allowed only for emergency bypass situations. The discharge described in your letter is not considered an emergency bypass; therefore, it is in violation of your permit.

In an effort to monitor the remediation of this discharge, please respond to the following items by June 12, 1990:

1. With regards to ponding the Blaine Tunnel water, when would this be done? Describe exactly where the water would enter the tailings pond system and show the configuration on a facility diagram.
2. Provide a plan, including dates, for determining the cause of the discharge (possibly through tunnel entry) and remediating the discharge. Include a date for final compliance with the permit provisions for 001.

Until such time as the discharge from 001 complies with the permit, you are hereby requested to sample the discharge from 001 according to the following schedule:

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Sampling Frequency</u>
Flow, gpm	Daily
pH, S.U.	Weekly
T.R. Cadmium	2 x monthly
T.R. Copper	2 x monthly
T.R. Lead	2 x monthly
T.R. Silver	2 x monthly
T.R. Zinc	2 x monthly
Total Mercury	2 x monthly
Total Suspended Solids	monthly

T.R. = Total Recoverable

Mr. Webster, p. 2
May 30, 1990

Attach the Blaine Tunnel results to the Discharge Monitoring Reports for the St. Louis Tunnel, on a monthly basis.

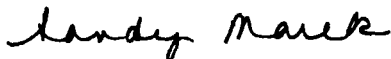
I would like to highlight pertinent permit requirements at this time as they may apply to future activity at your mine site:

-Per regulation 6.9.4 (3) of the state discharge permit regulations, " If the permittee monitors at the point of discharge any pollutant limited by the permit more frequently than required by the permit, using approved test procedures or as specified in the permit, the result of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of data to the Division." Should any of your work at this site involve sampling beyond the minimum required, at either outfall, then the monitoring report must reflect ALL data.

-Part II, A. of your permit (Change in Discharge) requires that "the permittee shall inform the Division in writing of any intent to construct, install, or alter any process, facility, or activity..." Basically, if you intend to change your treatment system in any way, you will need to first notify the Division of such change. The change may require a permit amendment. Also, if you intend at some point to relocate your discharge point, then written notification is required so that the permit may be modified accordingly.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Feel free to contact me at 331-4759 if you have any questions regarding this.

Sincerely,



Sandy Marek
Engineering Technician
Permits and Enforcement Section
WATER QUALITY CONTROL DIVISION

xc: MS-3
Mike Towne, P.O. Box 7, Rico, CO 81332
Jim Horn, D.E., WQCD, Durango Office
EPA, Compliance Assurance Section

Rico Development Corporation

P. O. Box 130
Rico, Colorado 81332
(303) 967-2793

JUNE 8

DEAR SIR:

THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO YOURS OF MAY 30

ITEM #1

THE PONDING OF THE BLAINE DISCHARGE WAS FINISHED ON MAY 18TH. THE POND WAS LINED WITH HYPALON AND NO DISCHARGE WENT INTO SILVER CREEK THEREAFTER.

THE DISCHARGED WATER IS LESS THAN $2\frac{1}{2}$ GAL. ALSO THE WATER AT THE NEW DISCHARGE POINT IS OVER 100' FROM SILVER CREEK AND HASN'T REACHED THE MILL TAILINGS POND BECAUSE OF DRY GROUND AND EVAPORATION.

ITEM 2

THE ICE IS MELTING QUITE FAST. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET BACK TO WHERE THE SLIDE, IS TO HAVE THE ICE MELTED. WE WILL THEN REDIRECT THE FLOW BACK INTO TUNNEL AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED. SO THIS WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, WE PROPOSE TO CEMENT THE TUNNEL SHUT. THIS WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF JULY.

I AM SUBMITTING PICTURE TO HELP IN UNDERSTANDING OUR PROBLEM AND WHAT IS BEING DONE

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

Wayne Webb

Rico Development Corporation

P. O. Box 130
Rico, Colorado 81332
(303) 967-2793

JUNE 8

DEAR SIR:

THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO YOURS OF MAY 30

ITEM #1

THE PONDING OF THE BLAINE DISCHARGE WAS FINISHED ON MAY 18TH. THE POND WAS LINED WITH HYPALON AND NO DISCHARGE WENT INTO SILVER CREEK THEREAFTER.

THE DISCHARGED WATER IS LESS THAN $2\frac{1}{2}$ GAL. ALSO THE WATER AT THE NEW DISCHARGE POINT IS OVER 100' FROM SILVER CREEK AND HASN'T REACHED THE MILL TAILINGS POND BECAUSE OF DRY GROUND AND EVAPORATION.

ITEM 2

THE ICE IS MELTING QUITE FAST. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET BACK TO WHERE THE SLIDE, IS TO HAVE THE ICE MELTED. WE WILL THEN REDIRECT THE FLOW BACK INTO TUNNEL AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED. SO THIS WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, WE PROPOSE TO CEMENT THE TUNNEL SHUT. THIS WORK SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF JULY.

I AM SUBMITTING PICTURE TO HELP IN UNDERSTANDING OUR PROBLEM AND WHAT IS BEING DONE

RESPECTFULLY YOURS

Wayne Webb